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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY JEFFERSON COUNTY CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF
THE RESPONSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

NO. 2020-04

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee has declared a state of emergency in the State of Washington as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Washington State Supreme Court has adopted Order No. 25700-B-602 granting emergency authority to this court to adopt, modify, and suspend court rules and orders, and to take further actions concerning court operations, as warranted to address the current state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners approved a Declaration of Emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 to be a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States has declared a federal state of emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, during this state of emergency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Washington State Department of Health have recommended increasingly

stringent social distancing measures of at least six feet between people, and encouraged vulnerable individuals to avoid public spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners declared a state of emergency in Jefferson County on March 16, 2020, and the Board also passed a motion on March 17, 2020, to close the County Courthouse to the public, with limited exceptions for the courts and some other functions, to be effective as soon as practicable; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed a proclamation (20-28) declaring that a State of Emergency continues to exist in all Counties in Washington State due to COVID-19; and that portions of RCW 42.30 and RCW 42.56 that require in-person meetings or contact are waived and suspended until midnight on April 23, 2020 and this has been extended through at least May 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Superior Court is ill-equipped to comply effectively with social distancing and other public health requirements, so continued in-person court appearances may jeopardize the health and safety of litigants, attorneys, judges, commissioners, court staff and members of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Superior Court wants to take reasonably necessary steps to assist in stopping or slowing the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Superior Court adopts by reference the findings and conclusions set forth in the foregoing declarations and resolutions of the Board of County Commissioners, the Governor and the Washington Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, this Court previously adopted Administrative Orders 2020-01 on March 16, 2020, and Administrative Order 2020-02 on March 18, 2020 and incorporates herein by reference the findings and conclusions made by this Court in those Orders; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Supreme Court has since adopted Amended Order No. 25700-B-607, on March 20, 2020; pursuant thereto this Court previously issued Administrative Order 2020-03; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Supreme Court has now adopted an ORDER RE: DEPENDENCY AND TERMINATION CASES, NO. 25700-B-614, filed April 3, 2020; a REVISED AND EXTENDED ORDER REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS, NO. 25700-B-615 filed April 13, 2020; and an ORDER RE: CIVIL COMMITMENT PROCEEDINGS, NO. 25700-B-616, filed April 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, this Court now desires to adopt an order to simplify compliance and be consistent with the three Washington State Supreme Court orders described in the foregoing paragraph;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Court's authority to administer justice and to ensure the safety of litigants, attorneys, judges, commissioners, court staff and members of the public;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1 Specific Court Dockets. Effective Monday, April 13, 2020, on a temporary basis until further order of this Court, the following court dockets are cancelled or modified:

A. Adoptions. The Wednesday afternoon 1:00 PM Adoption docket is cancelled until after May 4, 2020. Any Adoption hearings which must be held prior to that date shall be specially set as directed by the Court. All Adoption hearings shall be done by telephone, video, or other means that does not require in-person attendance.

B. Drug Court. Thursday morning Drug Court staffing meetings and Drug Court shall be held unless specially cancelled by the Court. Any such meeting or Court session so set shall be done by telephone, video, or other means that does not require in-person attendance.

C. Family Therapeutic Court (FTC). The Thursday morning FTC staffing meetings and FTC court sessions shall be held unless specifically cancelled by the Court. Any such meeting or Court session so set shall be done by telephone, video, or other means that does not require in-person attendance.

D. Truancy. The Thursday afternoon Truancy court docket is cancelled until such time as school resumes and there are Truancy cases to be heard.

2 Criminal Cases.

All criminal cases shall be held as set forth in Sections 6 thru 15 of the Washington State Supreme Court's Revised and extended Order Regarding Court Operations filed April 13, 2020, No. 25700-B-615.

3 Civil Cases.

All civil cases shall be held as set forth in Sections 1 thru 5 of the Washington State Supreme Court's Revised and extended Order Regarding Court Operations filed April 13, 2020, No. 25700-B-615.

4 Juvenile Court Cases.

A. All juvenile offender cases shall be held as set forth in the relevant portions of Sections 6 thru 15 of the Washington State Supreme Court's Revised and extended Order Regarding Court Operations filed April 13, 2020, No. 25700-B-615.

B. All Dependency cases shall be held as set forth in the Washington State Supreme Court's Order RE: Dependency and Termination Cases, No. 25700-B-614, filed on April 3, 2020.

C. CHINS and At Risk Youth hearings shall be held by telephone, video, or other means that does not require in-person attendance, unless impossible. Where court matters must be heard in person, social distancing and other public health measures must be strictly observed.

Telephonic, video or other hearings required to be public must be recorded, with the recording preserved for the record.

5 Involuntary Treatment Hearings.

Involuntary Treatment Act hearings shall be held as set forth in the Washington State Supreme Court's Order RE: Civil commitment Proceedings No. 25700-B-616 filed on April 15, 2020.

6 Settlement Conferences.

All settlement conferences shall be conducted by telephone, video, or other means that does not require in-person attendance.

7 Child Support Review Hearings.

Friday afternoon child support review hearings shall be heard as noted or re-noted by the Prosecuting Attorney's office. All hearings shall be conducted by telephone, video, or other means that does not require in-person attendance.

8 Filing of Documents.

Whenever practicable, documents should be filed with the Court by mail, fax or online. Filing at the Courthouse will be done via a drop box to be located in the back-parking lot, or in open court. The Superior Court Clerk and Superior Court Administrator should be contacted by telephone or email for details.

9 Miscellaneous Provisions.

A. Court Call. On all cases where persons appear by telephone, the Superior Court Administrator will request Court Call to waive fees, which may or may not be granted by Court Call, and will assist the parties with information. However, the parties are responsible for actually setting up the telephone appearance through Court Call. If for some reason the Court permits

telephone appearances other than by Court Call, contact telephone numbers shall be provided to the Superior Court Administrator by email well ahead of the applicable hearing. The Court Administrator will reply with the necessary conference call number and access code or other information necessary for the hearing.

B. Location of Clients and Counsel. Whenever practicable, to appear remotely by telephone attorneys and their clients should appear from the same site, exercising appropriate social distancing.

C. Encouragement for Agreed Orders. In all cases parties are strongly encouraged to enter orders by agreed order prepared and submitted to the Court in advance off-record to minimize the number of people appearing in the courtroom.

D. Encouragement to Limit Motions. In all cases, parties are strongly encouraged to limit motions when possible and to file only motions regarding emergent issues.

E. Waiver or Alteration by the Court of this Order.

The provisions of this Order may be waived or altered by the Court as determined in the interest of the efficient administration of justice on a case-by-case basis.

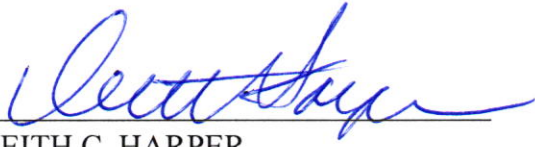
F. Review of this Order Prior to May 5, 2020. This Order shall be reviewed prior to May 5, 2020, in light of the public health emergency as it may then exist.

10 Supersedes and Replaces Administrative Order No. 2020-03. This Order supersedes and replaces this Court's Administrative Order No. 2020-03 entered on March 24, 2020.

11 Conflicting Orders. In the event that this Administrative Order conflicts in any way with the Washington Supreme Court's orders, including its ORDER RE: DEPENDENCY AND TERMINATION CASES, NO. 25700-B-614, filed April 3, 2020; its REVISED AND EXTENDED ORDER REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS, NO. 25700-B-615 filed April 13,

2020; or its ORDER RE: CIVIL COMMITMENT PROCEEDINGS, NO. 25700-B-616, filed April 15, 2020; then in such event the Supreme Court's orders shall prevail.

DATED April 20 , 2020.



KEITH C. HARPER
Superior Court Judge